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EXAMINER

TAYLOR, NICHOLAS R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/10/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-18 have been presented for examination and are rejected.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed May 22nd, 2008, have been fully considered but they are deemed not persuasive.

3. In the remarks, applicant argued in substance that:

(A) The prior art of McCarthy does not teach improving the devices in one domain by notifying a user that a device was effective in affecting another user's condition in another domain; instead, McCarthy is concerned with a single user on a single network. McCarthy further does not disclose a domain that includes a compatible services gateway coupled for data communications to metric sensors that measure a user's condition and administer devices based on the measured indications. Finally, McCarthy does not teach devices that affect a condition of a user.

As to point (A), McCarthy teaches a system that creates device effectiveness records for evaluating whether particular actions by respective devices were effective in affecting a particular condition of a user (see user condition metrics and records of col. 31, lines 1-37; col. 34, lines 17-30, fig. 7; col. 40, lines 38-53; and col. 35, line 50 to col.

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36, line 8, that evaluate the particular condition of a first user in a first domain and produce device effectiveness records). These records are created in a domain with devices that includes both a services gateway that is coupled for communication to metric sensors and can administer devices based on the indications (see mediation layer 50 of fig. 9 that runs, e.g., the services listed on the left hand side of fig. 7 which are based on measured indications of user conditions). Finally, the system includes notifying a second user in a second domain that the selected device was effective in affecting the first user's condition to allow the second user to benefit (see, e.g., col. 37, lines 9-65; col. 41, lines 10-30; col. 34, lines 16-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McCarthy et al. (U.S. Patent 6,904,408).

6. As per claims 1, 7, and 13, McCarthy teaches a method for improving the devices in a domain, the method comprising:

receiving, within a network, a plurality of device effectiveness records for a first user created in a first domain, each device effectiveness record including information used to evaluate whether particular actions by respective devices were effective in affecting a particular condition of the first user, (McCarthy, see user condition metrics and records of col. 31, lines 1-37; col. 34, lines 17-30, fig. 7; col. 40, lines 38-53; and col. 35, line 50 to col. 36, line 8, that evaluate the particular condition of a first user in a first domain and produce device effectiveness records)

the first domain including a first compatible services gateway coupled for data communications to metric sensors that measure indications of the first user's condition the first compatible services gateway hosting a first domain mediation layer that is a set of services for administering devices based on the measured indications of the first user's condition;(McCarthy, see mediation layer 50 of fig. 9 that runs, e.g., the services listed on the left hand side of fig. 7 which are based on measured indications of user conditions)

storing the plurality of device effectiveness records; (McCarthy, e.g., see fig. 9 physiological server databases)

selecting a device that was effective in affecting the first user's condition in dependent upon the plurality of device effectiveness records; and notifying a second user in a second domain that the selected device was effective in affecting the first

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user's condition to allow the second user to benefit from the effectiveness of the selected device by upgrading the second domain to include a second domain device that matches the selected device (McCarthy, col. 37, lines 9-65; col. 41, lines 10-30; col. 34, lines 16-30 where a second user in a second domain is notified and a second device is included that matches the selected device).

7. As per claims 2, 8, and 14, McCarthy teaches the system further wherein selecting a device that was effective in affecting the first user's condition in dependence upon the plurality of device effectiveness records comprises comparing at least two device effectiveness records (McCarthy, col. 37, lines 9-65; col. 41, lines 10-30; col. 34, lines 16-30 where the records are compared and mined for use in the system).

8. As per claims 3, 9, and 15, McCarthy teaches the system further wherein selecting a device that was effective in affecting the first user's condition in dependence upon the plurality of device effectiveness records comprises mining the plurality of device effectiveness records (McCarthy, col. 37, lines 9-65; col. 41, lines 10-30; col. 34, lines 16-30 where the records are compared and mined for use in the system).

9. As per claims 4, 10, and 16, McCarthy teaches the system further wherein an effective device ID identifies a new device for the user (McCarthy, col. 37, lines 9-65; col. 41, lines 10-30; col. 34, lines 16-30).

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10. As per claims 5, 11, and 17, McCarthy teaches the system further wherein an effective device ID identifies an upgrade for an existing device for the user (McCarthy, col. 37, lines 9-65; col. 41, lines 10-30; col. 34, lines 16-30, e.g., recommending a better device).

11. As per claims 6, 12, and 18, McCarthy teaches the system further comprising creating a device effectiveness record (McCarthy, see user condition metrics and records of col. 31, lines 1-37; col. 34, lines 17-30, fig. 7; col. 40, lines 38-53; and col. 35, line 50 to col. 36, line 8, that evaluate the particular condition of a first user in a first domain and produce device effectiveness records).

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Taylor whose telephone number is (571) 272-3889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 5:30pm, with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/NT/
Nicholas Taylor
Examiner
Art Unit 2141

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